

University of Texas and a doctorate in physics from the University of Paris.

He briefly worked for the Belgian Government in nuclear safety in the 1970's. He has headed Iran's nuclear program for 15 years, and spoke with precision when discussing Iran's official nuclear reactor and research sites in Iran. But the United States and Germany have amassed substantial evidence that Iran is secretly buying components and technology from abroad that they claim are not necessary for nuclear energy development or research and can only be useful in a determined weapons program.

American and German intelligence officials believe that Mr. Amrollahi controls only part of Iran's nuclear program and that Iran has created a parallel program through the military that is largely responsible for purchases of nuclear related items. According to this view, the Defense Ministry Organization inside the Defense Ministry uses front organizations like the Sharif University of Technology in Teheran to help buy nuclear-related equipment.

On the basis of reports by Germany's foreign intelligence agency in 1992 and 1993 that Sharif was involved in secret nuclear activities, Germany began to reject all requests for equipment by the university. Early last year, the German agency said that the university's physics research center was involved in buying technology that could be used in making weapons, including nuclear-related materials.

Mr. Amrollahi strongly denied the claim that he was not fully in charge. "I am responsible for the atomic energy of Iran," he said, "Believe it, we don't have any other institutions or departments that pay attention to nuclear issues."

Mr. Amrollahi also denied reports that Iran secretly has been buying nuclear technology and equipment from abroad, noting that the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is responsible for monitoring nuclear programs around the world, turned up nothing suspicious during a visit to Sharif University.

But the nuclear chief was unfamiliar with intelligence reports about Iran's nuclear-related overtures abroad and asked for copies of news clippings describing the details.

Asked, for example, about a report that Iran tried unsuccessfully to buy cylinders of fluorine for Sharif University in 1991, Mr. Amrollahi said, "Wrong. I deny it totally." Asked about a report that Sharif University approached the German firm Thyssen in 1991 for specialized magnets he replied, "No, we never did."

Asked whether Sharif University tried to buy balancing machines from another German firm in 1991, he replied, "You can go and ask Sharif University."

Asked about a seizure by Italian authorities of high technology ultrasonic equipment that could be used in nuclear reactor testing in the Italian port of Bari last January, he replied, "Believe it, that's wrong, totally."

Asked about an earlier seizure by Italian customs of eight steam condensers destined for Iran in 1993, he said, "I don't know really. I don't know. It's totally wrong."

Mr. Amrollahi also denied a recent charge by Mr. Christopher, based on American intelligence reports, that Iran tried to buy enriched uranium from Kazakhstan in 1992. Other senior American officials in Washington said that Iran sent a purchasing team to Kazakhstan three years ago, but that it came home empty-handed.

The visit contributed to a decision by the Pentagon last year to secretly airlift 500 kilograms of bomb-grade uranium from Kazakhstan's nuclear fabrication plant for safe storage in the United States.

"We didn't send any team," Mr. Amrollahi said. "Definitely not. What is the use of en-

riched uranium for? The Russians do have many, many nuclear weapons but they couldn't use them. I think the bomb age is over. We don't think we need a nuclear weapon."●

TRIBUTE TO DON COLLINS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I note the death of Donald L. Collins after a brief but fierce battle with cancer. At the time of his death last February, Mr. Collins was Deputy Federal Insurance Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] in Washington, DC. That position of leadership capped a remarkable career in Federal service of more than 20 years. It is a genuine honor to commend to my colleagues in the Senate the life and service of Don Collins.

Don had many remarkable achievements in his Federal career that I would like to touch on briefly. But perhaps, for anyone who ever met him, Don Collins' most memorable qualities were his deep, unabashed love for his Catholic faith, his genuine compassion for others, and his quick sense of humor that could disarm and charm any opponent. For Don, there were never any strangers, never any enemies—even after the most heated debate. He was available to everyone, at any time. While Don always assumed the lion's share of the work for every project, he still always had time for everyone on his staff. There was never a closed door to his employees at the Federal Insurance Administration [FIA] or to the public he served. His love and caring were contagious. Don had, in the words of his brother, long arms—always ready to draw people to himself, no matter how different their point of view.

Don loved and respected the law as well—which he demonstrated by always molding policy interpretations for the National Flood Insurance Program [NFIP] to comply with the intentions of Congress for that program. His regard and respect for law were developed early as he worked his way through undergraduate school at Fordham University in New York City and law school at night. He completed his juris doctor at Saint John's University, also in New York. He was admitted to practice in the following courts: the courts of the State of New York, District of Columbia Court of Appeals; U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Second Circuit; U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of New York; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; and U.S. Court of Military Appeals (DC).

Marking another dimension of this charming, approachable, funny man were the awards he received to commemorate a textbook Federal career. In 1991, Don Collins received the Presidential Rank Award-Meritorious Executive, Senior Executive Service. That award recognized in part his lasting contributions and service to the Fed-

eral Insurance Administration, especially for his efforts to shape and implement the NFIP program. In that connection, Mr. Collins played a major role in framing the public policy debate about how to reduce the public's losses from floods, which resulted in the enactment of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. That legislation redirected the Nation toward a more prudent course in flood loss reduction. From 1990 to 1994, he worked closely with the White House and congressional leaders to shape the NFIP Reform Act of 1994 which strengthens the NFIP and provides lenders with the tools needed to comply with legal requirements for flood insurance.

Over the years, Don Collins also helped foster a close working relationship with the insurance industry. His integrity and disarming personality were largely responsible for the good will enjoyed by the program with its industry partners. He developed and administered the entire claims and underwriting systems in support of the NFIP and developed all NFIP policy forms and the agents' manuals. Similarly, he developed all flood insurance regulations and was central to the development of all significant policies governing the NFIP.

In sum, Don Collins was a model Federal executive. More than that, Don Collins was an exemplary person. He was a man of deep faith, a loving husband and father, a person dedicated to his community, and a manager who set the standard for excellence at the Federal Insurance Administration and the National Flood Insurance Program. When my staff and I worked with Don on NFIP legislation over the course of 2 years, his knowledge, diligence, good humor, grace, and personal warmth were always present, and prevented a series of difficult negotiations from becoming unpleasant and onerous. None who worked with him will forget him. Indeed, he will be appreciated and fondly remembered by all.●

THE COLUMBIA GORGE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize the grand opening of the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, WA on Wednesday, May 17, 1995. The grand opening celebration will start at 10:30 a.m. with the award-winning Stevenson High School Band and choir, and conclude with Nelson Moses of the Wishram Tribe and members of his family giving a native American blessing to the project.

The Interpretive Center is dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural history of the magnificent Columbia River Gorge. Exhibits and displays will educate, entertain and inform adults and children alike. As they tour the center they will see the First Peoples and Harvesting Resources galleries and the multi-media Creation Theatre, which shows the cataclysmic events